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contd

first sheet;

an intermediate element at least partially covering the intercalated adhesive layer at said exposed edge; and

a cement element adhered at least partly to said intermediate element for securing the glazing to a body.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled. Claims 1 through 7 and 10 through 19 remain active in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first and second sheets are "transparent." Basis for this can be found in the fact that the glazings may be used as a windshield, and the sheets 1 and 2 are formed of float glass (page 6, lines 13 and 14).

According to a feature of the invention, the first transparent sheet of a glazing is offset in relation to the second transparent sheet to form an exposed edge portion of the first sheet. This is shown, for example in the non-limiting embodiment of the figures, by the offset between the sheets 1 and 2. Providing such an offset of the edges frees a space on the periphery of the lamination, which space can be used for the insertion of elements such as connectors for electrical heating, wire networks or antennae. The lamination also presents a peripheral thinning at the offset, which allows it to be installed flush in a body contoured for flush installation of a single sheet of glass of smaller thickness. It is thus possible to establish a uniform depth for the bay of the vehicle frame, regardless of the type of glazing to be provided.

However, the offsetting of the edges of the sheets also creates the problem of inferior

crash test resistance, and so the present invention seeks to improve the crash test resistance of a laminated glazing having such an offset edge (see page 2, lines 3 through 19). To this end, the invention provides an intermediate element, e.g., intermediate element 4, at least partially covering the intercalated adhesive layer (e.g., layer 3) at the exposed edge, the cement element which secures the glazing to the body (e.g., element 6) at least partially adhering to the intermediate element. This reinforces the connection of the glazing to the frame (page 3, lines 4-5) and so reduces the problem of reduced crash resistance for the glazing having such an offset.

This feature is recited in Claim 1, which recites in part that the first sheet is offset in relation to the second sheet to form an exposed edge portion of the first sheet, and that the intermediate element is at least partially covering the intercalated adhesive layer binding the second sheet to the first sheet, *at the exposed edge*. There is no disclosure of these features in the U.S. patent to Rothe et al, which was applied under 35 U.S.C. §103 to reject Claims 1 through 19.

Rothe et al discloses the attachment of a glazing to a frame 7 and, in particular, seeks to eliminate poor adhesion of a cement profile in a flush glazing (column 2, lines 57-63). Rothe et al describes that durable adhesive connections between glass bodies and other materials must withstand great mechanical stresses in the event of impact. The glass bodies can include laminated glass panes (column 1, line 17). A glass body is shown at 1 and has a peripheral edge covering 3 or 4 made of ceramic or a primer. A further layer of primer 5 is placed over the primer layer 4, and cement profiles 2 are placed on the primer 5. Profiles of a second moldable cement 6 are applied between the profiles 2 and on the primer 5 for adhering the glazing 1 to the frame 7.

However, Rothe et al does not disclose first and second transparent sheets, in which

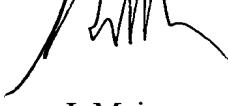
"the first sheet is offset in relation to the second sheet to form an exposed edge portion of the first sheet," the intermediate element being at the exposed edge, nor does the Examiner allege in paragraph 6 of the Office Action that Rothe et al discloses an intermediate element at such an exposed edge. *There is no offset whatsoever in Rothe et al.* As already mentioned, the invention provides increased shock resistance for a glazing having such an exposed edge, and the exposed edge is recited in all the claims. Thus, Rothe et al is not even relevant to the problem which the invention seeks to overcome — reduced shock resistance for a glazing having such an exposed edge. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the claims clearly define over this reference.

Since Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is believed to be moot.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220
GJM/RTP:cct
I:\atty\RTP\12470851-am.wpd

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--1. (Amended) Laminated glazing to be fitted upon a body, comprising:

a transparent first sheet;

a transparent second sheet, wherein the first sheet is offset in relation to the second sheet to form an exposed edge portion of the first sheet;

an intercalated adhesive layer binding said second sheet to said first sheet, wherein the intercalated adhesive layer extends over a portion of at least the exposed edge portion of the first sheet;

an intermediate element at least partially covering the intercalated adhesive layer at said exposed edge; and

[an] a cement element adhered at least partly to said intermediate element for securing the glazing to a body.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled).--